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enforce neutrality (page 201) would not be so amusing if we were told—as was the case,—that similar orders went to all officers, civil and military, wherever a violation of the law of April 20, 1818, seemed possible. Motives of governments, as of individuals, are rarely simple enough or transparent enough to permit dogmatic analysis, and it seems to the reviewer that Dr. Marshall may have failed at times to consider all the complex factors in the situation. The value of the book does not depend, however, on these matters of opinion. It is a comprehensive and scholarly survey of the whole Sabine boundary question, based on an independent evaluation of all the scattered printed sources. The work is well done and will prove alike useful to the general reader interested in the history of the Southwest and to college classes studying that section.

EUGENE C. BARKER.

The Political Shame of Mexico. By Edward I. Bell, formerly editor and publisher of "La Prensa" and "The Daily Mexican" of Mexico City. (New York: McBride, Nast & Company, 1914. 422 p. \$2.00.)¹

The author was editor of a daily newspaper, head of a considerable news-gathering system, and acquainted with most of the important figures of Mexico. His opportunities to know and intelligently interpret the past four years of troubled Mexican history have been unusual. His most important material was gotten "not from books, for none contain it, but from men." José Ives Limantour read proof of part of the book and discussed freely, but not enlighteningly, certain phases of the Diaz collapse; and the author has evidently been in close touch with some authorized spokesman of the Madero clan. The book is thoughtful, pungently written, suggestive, and fascinating. Mr. Bell knows his Mexico, where "things are never what they seem," and his picture is atmospherically correct. As a contemporary interpretation of an immensely intricate subject by a well-informed and evidently fair-minded observer who has made an effort to check his observations, the book ought to be a useful guide to future investigations.

¹This review is reprinted from *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review* of June, 1915.

In our present state of knowledge, however, many of its conclusions must be accepted simply as opinion, and some of them will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, either to prove or disprove.

As the author sees it, Mexico began to outgrow Diaz in the nineties, but business interests supported him because they thought him a good policeman. In 1910 they no longer trusted his ability, and the crash came. Many American and some Mexican business men hoped that the inevitable confusion would lead to intervention by the United States. The United States, recognizing the fact, and not the motive, of the general opposition, made no effort to save the Diaz régime. But Madero was an accident, due to the unexpected strength of an almost real popular opinion and to the mismanagement of Limantour, the strong man of the Diaz government. "Many stories have been printed and direct charges made that revolutionary capital to the amount of millions was furnished by American corporations to aid Madero. The stories were fables and the charges unfounded. There was logic behind them but no facts." The only foreign money used in the revolution was \$375,000, the first payment by a French company on a railroad concession that Gustavo Madero controlled in Zacatecas. No important business concern supported Madero before or after his election. All regarded him as impractical and unsafe. But neither they nor the active conspirators formulated any concrete plan for preventing chaos when Madero should fall.

It is not charged that any business corporation influenced the attitude of the United States government toward Madero, but it is pointed out that three great companies which had reason not to welcome the Madero ascendancy were in very close touch with the Taft administration. A corrupt connection need not have existed and is not implied. These corporations were certainly in a position to give information on Mexican conditions, may naturally have offered it, by request or unasked, and it would certainly have been unfavorable to the Madero government—a view which would not be modified by the official reports of Ambassador Wilson. As a result of misinformation from these or other sources, "the government at Washington, if one may judge by its acts, has seen on the far side of the Rio Grande nothing but a series of illusions." Sorely hampered though he was by the blundering movements of the United States, the nagging of Ambassador Wilson, and the

obstructive tactics of doctrinaire congressman, Madero almost succeeded. With very little well directed encouragement, or even with absolute non-interference, from the United States, he would have succeeded.

The author is convinced that the United States must ultimately come to forcible intervention, and thinks that it should have done so at Madero's fall. He is inclined to find excuses for the policy of the Wilson administration in the inheritance which it received from Mr. Taft. One closes the book with increased respect for Madero, and with assurance of the impractical nature of his Utopian dreams somewhat shaken; but the conviction of old Evaristo Madero, who died at the beginning of his grandson's revolution, is likely to be the verdict of history—"that old gentleman had seen Mexico grow from a chaotic mass to a well co-ordinated system, and he believed that another generation or two must pass before radical reforms could be introduced."

EUGENE C. BARKER.

Baegert's Nachrichten: Its Independent Authorship.—The last few decades have been a period of assiduity among the multitudes of historical collectors, yet there inevitably remain certain materials that escape the most conscientious workers. One of these is the work of Father Baegert, missionary and ethnographer. Though his career is fairly well known, his labors have hardly been accredited with the honor that is due them.

John Jacob Baegert was born at Schlesstadt in Lower Alsace on November 22, 1717. We learn from the Jesuit records that he came from a family which boasted of several members of religious orders. After studying philosophy, he entered the society of Jesus at Aschaffenburg in 1736, and, in the capacity of a missionary, departed for America thirteen years later. His field of work was in Lower California, where he remained until the expulsion of the Society in 1767. Baegert embarked at Loreto on his return journey, and after a short stay in the Spanish monastery of the Minorites retired to the Jesuit college at Neustadt, where his remaining days were spent. In 1772 he published a book which contains a description of the California Peninsula. This book, which is now very rare, bears the title, "*Nachrichten von der Amerikanischen*